

**BUDGET TESTIMONY FOR THE
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BY KIMBERLY M. FLASHER,
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BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MAY 5, 2011**

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE,
THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THE PROPOSED
BUDGET FOR THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR FISCAL
YEARS 2012 AND 2013.

OUR BUDGET IS COMPRISED OF THREE LINE ITEMS.

THE FIRST LINE ITEM IS THE 321 GRF ACCOUNT, WHICH IS USED
FOR GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES. THE HOUSE IS REQUESTING
\$18.5 MILLION IN THIS ACCOUNT FOR BOTH FYS 2012 AND 2013. THIS
REPRESENTS NO INCREASE FOR EITHER FISCAL YEAR.

THE SECOND LINE ITEM IS THE 601 REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT,
WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED TO RECEIVE REFUNDS FROM DAS FOR
OVERPAYMENTS OF MEDICAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS PURSUANT TO
SECTION 101.272 OF THE REVISED CODE. THIS ACCOUNT MAY BE USED
FOR GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES.

THE THIRD LINE ITEM IS THE 602 SALES ROTARY ACCOUNT. THIS IS THE ACCOUNT THAT HOUSE MEMBERS USE TO PURCHASE ITEMS SUCH AS FLAGS, FRAMES, AND SEALS. PAYMENTS FOR THESE ITEMS ARE DEPOSITED BACK INTO THIS ACCOUNT.

APPROXIMATELY 95% OF OUR SPENDING GOES TOWARD PERSONNEL EXPENSES. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF NON-PAYROLL-RELATED SPENDING GOES TOWARD THE FOLLOWING FOUR ITEMS:

- TECHNOLOGY EXPENDITURES;
- MEMBERS' MILEAGE;
- POSTAGE; AND
- COPIER EXPENSES.

PERSONNEL COSTS ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE DUE TO RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS. THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ONLY RECENTLY DETERMINED WHAT THE EXACT COST WOULD BE FOR FY 2012; FY 2013'S COST IS YET TO BE DETERMINED. IN DECEMBER WHEN FIGURES FOR THE NEW GENERAL ASSEMBLY WERE REQUIRED, DAS ESTIMATED THAT THE STATE'S COST OF MEMBERS' HEALTH CARE FOR THE 129TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE \$1,200.00 PER MONTH FOR EACH MEMBER. THIS HAS RESULTED IN NEARLY HALF A MILLION DOLLARS OF INCREASED COSTS OF HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR MEMBERS ALONE.

THE HOUSE CONTINUES TO EXPLORE WAYS TO MANAGE ITS RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY AND MAXIMIZE THE DOLLARS AVAILABLE TO US. FOR EXAMPLE, WE

- REDUCED THE NUMBER OF STANDING COMMITTEES FROM 27 TO 17 FOR A SAVINGS OF \$193,000 PER YEAR.
- REORGANIZED STAFF STRUCTURE LEVELS RESULTING IN THE ELIMINATION OF SOME FULL TIME STAFF POSITIONS BY INCREASING PART TIME STAFF POSITIONS THEREBY SAVING ON HIGHER SALARIES AND BENEFIT COSTS.
- RESTRUCTURED THE HOUSE IT DEPARTMENT BY DOWNSIZING PERSONNEL AND STREAMLINING REDUNDANCY OF FUNCTIONS WITH LIS. PROJECTED SAVINGS ARE OVER \$100,000 PER YEAR.

I APPRECIATE YOUR TIME AND WILL BE HAPPY TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.